

## BOOK REVIEW

ROY MOREY. 2008. **Little Big Bend: Common, Uncommon, and Rare Plants of the Big Bend National Park.** (ISBN 978-0-89672-613-0, pbk.). Texas Tech University Press, Box 41037, Lubbock, Texas, 79409-1037, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.ttup.ttu.edu, ttup@ttu.edu, 1-800-832-4042, 1-806-742-2982, 1-806-742-979 fax). \$34.95, 329 pp., color photographs, 7.5" × 10".

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An updated guide to the plants of the Big Bend is long overdue. There was the 1951 Park Service *Plants of the Big Bend National Park* by W.B. McDougall and Omer E. Sperry with 190 species and numerous small black and white photos. Barton Warnock's *Wildflowers of the Big Bend Country* with colored photos and very brief descriptions followed in 1970. Since then explorers into the flora of the region have turned to the general guides to Trans-Pecos plants by Michael Powell and others, all of which have been helpful. This book fills the need in part at least and does so not only expertly but handsomely. Agaves and cacti are granted prime positions in separate sections at the beginning of the book, after which other plant families follow (monocots and dicots mixed). Each plant is superbly treated with an excellent photo, non-technical description, and indications of where in the park the plant might be found. (Eager to see Texas *Thelopody*? Follow the instructions to it and to its congener *T.wrightii*, too.) These are some of the showier plants; there are many more. By definition coverage is limited. The book does not pretend to be comprehensive. Rather it reflects one man's passion for the plants and the desire to share that passion. Need for a comprehensive guide to plants of the Park still exists, but this is one very worthwhile contribution to that end.

Among the four useful appendices are ones indicating the status of rare plants and the listing of plants by Park location.—*Joann Karges, Texas Christian University Library (retired), Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*